

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 11 and 13 are pending. Claims 1, 6 and 11, which are independent, are amended. Support for the amendment is provided in the Specification, specifically on pages 14-16. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Claims 4, 9, 12 and 14-21 were previously canceled. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended, thereby obviate the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections. Support for amended subject matter is provided on pages 14-16 of the Specification.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections is respectfully requested.

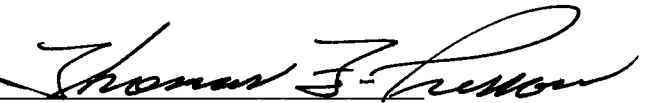
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800